

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A container for a medicament for use as an interchangeable cartridge in an inhaler, the container being gas-tight and liquid-tight, comprising:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag having at least one welded seam of a substantially T-shaped or substantially V-shaped configuration to seal edges of said foil bag and close a first end of said foil bag;

a one-piece flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange having a guide passage formed therein for sealingly fitting said container onto a discharge connection member of the inhaler; ~~and~~

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member,

wherein said flange is a monolithic structure including said pierceable membrane and said guide passage; ~~and~~

said guide passage has an end portion that extends into an interior chamber of said foil bag, wherein said pierceable membrane is disposed at an end of or within said end portion.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said foil bag is made from a composite material comprising at least two layers.
6. (Original) The container according to claim 5, wherein a first layer of said composite material includes a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gold, and copper.
7. (Original) The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises an inner foil of a plastic material and an outer foil of a metal material.
8. (Original) The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises two foils of different plastic materials.
9. (Original) The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises:
an inner foil made of a first plastic material,
a diffusion-tight central layer; and
an outer foil of a second plastic material, wherein the melting temperature
of said second plastic material is higher than the melting temperature of said inner foil.
10. (Original) The container according to claim 9, wherein said diffusion-tight central layer is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a plastic material, a metal material, a glass and a ceramic.
11. (Original) The container according to claim 9, wherein said outer foil is made of polyethylene terephthalate.
12. (Original) The container according to claim 9, wherein said inner foil is made of a polyethylene copolymer of ethylene-acrylic acid.

13. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein said flange comprises a press fit within said guide passage for sealingly fitting the discharge connection member in said guide passage.

14. (Original) The container according to claim 13, wherein the press fit is a portion of said guide passage and comprises a smooth inside wall of an inside diameter of said guide passage which only slightly differs from an outside diameter of the discharge connection member.

15. (Original) The container according to claim 13, further comprising a plurality of bulge portions on an inside wall of said guide passage.

16. (Original) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions are of an elongate configuration and extend symmetrically in the axial direction of said guide passage.

17. (Original) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions form a plurality of ring portions on the inside wall of said guide passage.

18. (Original) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions are of a helical configuration.

19. (Previously presented) A container for a medicament for use as an interchangeable cartridge in an inhaler, the container being gas-tight and liquid-tight, comprising:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag including at least one welded seam of a substantially T-shaped or substantially V-shaped configuration to seal edges of said foil bag and close a first end of said foil bag;

a one-piece flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange being fish-like in form and having a guide passage formed

therein, wherein a portion of said guide passage has a press fit for sealingly fitting said container onto a discharge connection member of the inhaler; and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member, wherein said pierceable membrane is arranged between said press fit of said guide passage and an interior chamber of said foil bag.

20. (Currently amended) A propellant gas-free atomizer with a discharge connection member for dispensing medicament in inhalable metered doses, comprising:

a container including:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag having at least one welded seam to seal edges of said foil bag and close a first end of said foil bag,

a flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange having a guide passage formed therein for sealingly fitting said container onto the discharge connection member, and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member, wherein said flange is a monolithic structure including said pierceable membrane and said guide passage is disposed at an end of or within said guide passage wherein said guide passage has an end portion that extends into said interior chamber of said foil bag, wherein said pierceable membrane is disposed at an end of or within said end portion; and

an inhalable medicament preparation disposed in the container.

21. (Original) The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is taken in a dosage of 1 μ l to 50 μ l.

22. (Original) The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is taken in a dosage of 15 μ l to 20 μ l.

23. (Original) The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is in a solution of ethanol, water, or a mixture thereof.

24. (Currently amended) The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament includes at least one active substance selected from the group consisting of ~~BEROTEC~~-(fenoterol-hydrobromide; 1-(3,5-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-[[1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-ethyl]-amino]-ethanol-hydrobromide), ~~ALTROVENT~~-(ipratropium bromide), ~~BERODUAL~~-(combination of fenoterol-hydrobromide and ipratropium-bromide), ~~SALBUTAMOL~~, ~~ALBUTEROL~~, ~~COMBIVENT~~, ~~OXIVENT~~-(oxitropium bromide), ~~BA679~~-(tiotropium bromide), ~~BEA 2108~~-(di-(2-thienyl)-glycol acid tropenol ester), ~~FLUNISOLID~~, ~~BUDESONID~~, ~~BECLOMETHASON~~, and combinations thereof.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 20, wherein said guide passage has an end portion that extends into an interior chamber of said foil bag, wherein said pierceable membrane is disposed at an end of or within said end portion guide passage.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 20, wherein the at least one welded seam of said foil bag has a substantially T-shaped or substantially V-shaped configuration.

29. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one welded seam of said foil bag has a substantially T-shaped configuration.

30. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 20, wherein a portion of said guide passage has a press fit for fitting said container onto the discharge connection member, wherein said pierceable membrane is arranged between said press fit of said guide passage and an interior chamber of said foil bag.

31. (Previously presented) A container for a medicament for use as an interchangeable cartridge in an inhaler, the container being gas-tight and liquid-tight, comprising:

a foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foiled bag includes at least one welded seam to sealingly close a first end of said foil bag, wherein at least a portion of said welded seam extends partially in the longitudinal direction of said foil bag, wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner and retains its initial length after emptying;

a one-piece flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange having a guide passage formed therein,

wherein said guide passage has a seal portion for sealingly fitting said container onto a discharge connection member of the inhaler, and wherein said guide passage has an end portion that extends into an interior chamber of said foil bag; and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member, wherein said pierceable membrane is disposed at an end of or within said end portion of said guide passage that extends into said interior chamber of said foil bag.

32. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 31, wherein said pierceable membrane is arranged between said seal portion of said guide passage and said interior chamber of said foil bag.

33. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 32, wherein said seal portion comprises at least one of a sealing location and a press fit.

34. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 31, wherein the at least one welded seam of said foil bag has a substantially U-shaped configuration, a substantially T-shaped configuration, or a substantially V-shaped configuration.

35. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 31, wherein said foil bag is a tubular foil without a longitudinal seam extending from the first end to the second end of the said foil bag.

36. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 31, wherein said foil bag is a sealed-edge foil bag having a longitudinal seam extending from the welded seam to the second end of the said foil bag.